

Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003  
Appl. No. 10/031,205  
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#### Remarks

In response to the Office Action of May 5, 2003, and a brief interview with the Examiner on August 20, 2003, claims 1, 8 and 15 have been further amended.

In claim 1, the words "not more than one" have been changed to "only one." Claim 1 was rejected over Hoeft, French 2 775 698. It is noted that Hoeft has a corresponding publication WO 99/45205 with an English abstract, which is attached hereto.

Claim 1 recites a product comprising only one embossed ply that is also creped, and one or more unembossed plies. The French reference requires at least two embossed plies and neither is creped. The present invention also provides plies of different grammages or compositions so that a strong unembossed ply can be combined with only one embossed ply to provide a strong product, whereas the prior art uses two embossed plies and a third ply to provide the symmetrical product being compared to the asymmetric product of the invention (see title of invention).

Claim 8 has been corrected to delete one of the two lower limit limitations, and claim 15 has been amended for clarity.

#### Conclusion

In view of the Amendment and Remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 are still pending and a Notice of Allowance for these claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

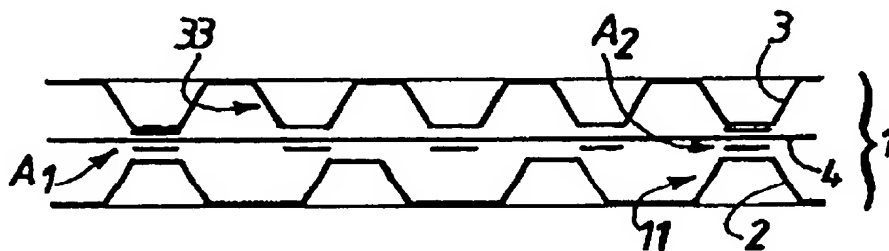
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| (51) Classification internationale des brevets <sup>6</sup> :<br><b>D21H 27/40, B31F 1/07, B32B 29/00, 31/00 // D21H 27:38</b>  | <b>A1</b> | (11) Numéro de publication internationale: <b>WO 99/45205</b><br>(43) Date de publication internationale: 10 septembre 1999 (10.09.99)   |
| (21) Numéro de la demande internationale: <b>PCT/FR99/00504</b><br>(22) Date de dépôt international: <b>5 mars 1999 (05.03.99)</b><br>(30) Données relatives à la priorité:<br><b>98/02792</b> <b>6 mars 1998 (06.03.98)</b> <b>FR</b><br>(71) Déposant (pour tous les Etats désignés sauf US): <b>FORT JAMES FRANCE [FR/FR]; 11, route Industrielle, F-68320 Kunheim (FR).</b><br>(72) Inventeurs; et<br>(75) Inventeurs/Déposants (US seulement): <b>ROUSSEL, Gilles [FR/FR]; 25, rue de Mulhouse, F-68000 Colmar (FR). HOEFT, Benoît [FR/FR]; 1, rue des Tilleuls, F-68320 Bischwihr (FR).</b><br>(74) Mandataire: <b>DAVID, Daniel; Fort James France, Service Propriété Industrielle, 23, boulevard Georges Clemenceau, F-92402 Courbevoie Cedex (FR).</b> |           | (81) Etats désignés: <b>CA, NO, TR, US, brevet européen (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</b><br>Publiée<br><i>Avec rapport de recherche internationale.</i> |

(54) Title: **ABSORBENT PAPER PRODUCT COMPRISING THREE PLEATS AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAME**(54) Titre: **PRODUIT EN PAPIER ABSORBANT COMPRENANT TROIS PLIS ET SON PROCEDE DE FABRICATION**

## (57) Abstract

The invention concerns an absorbent paper product with basic weight of about 36 to about 105 g/m<sup>2</sup> comprising at least three pleats, a first and second outer embossed pleats each comprising raised patterns consisting of at least partially of discrete protuberances oriented towards the inside of the structure and a non-embossed central pleat, the pleats being associated by linking the distal surfaces of at least part of the protuberances of each of the outer pleats to the central pleat. The invention is characterised in that each of the embossed outer pleats is linked by means of an adhesive to said central pleat, and at least one of the pleats has a pattern density more than 30 protuberances per cm<sup>2</sup>.

## (57) Abrégé

Le produit en papier absorbant d'un grammage d'environ 36 à environ 105 g/m<sup>2</sup> comprenant au moins trois plis, un premier et un second pli externes gaufrés comportant chacun des motifs en relief consistant au moins en partie en des protubérances discrètes orientées vers l'intérieur de la structure et un pli central non gaufré, les plis étant associés par liaison des surfaces distales d'au moins une partie des protubérances de chacun desdits plis externes audit pli central, est caractérisé en ce que chacun desdits plis externes gaufrés est lié au moyen d'un adhésif audit pli central, et au moins l'un des plis a une densité de motifs supérieure à 30 protubérances/cm<sup>2</sup>.